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Pressure to ban public smoking likely to rise after EPA report

BY ELIZABE IN NEUS GANNETT NEV & BERVICE DA13

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WASHING ON --- Anti-amoking advecase, may have all the ammunition hey need for more extensive pallic bans on smoking now that the Environmental Protection: Agent y has added secondhand cig aret a smoke to its list of the most da: gerous cancer-causing agents

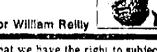
The EPA, much anticipated announcement Thursday puts secondhand ligarette smoke in the same ontegory as asbestos, benzene and ladon.

Blood tests on amokers and abnamblers, showed that while only 16 per ent of Americans smoke, t3 pricent -- almost twothirds - had a chemical in their blood that lance from inhaling eigarente smoke, the EPA report said.

Smoke fre a other people's cigarettes is a sponsible for about 3,000; long rancer deaths each year in the 1 nited States; according to the report.

In addition, the report estimates that letween: 150,000 and 300,000 chil. (en under the age of 18 marks levelop respiratory infections, c. chi year because of cligarette s joke, and between We choose to do a lot of things in our lives that involve risk. But I do not believe that we have the right to subject others to that risk."

- EPA Director William Reitly



200,000 and 1 million asthmatics become sicker.

Secondhand smoke also puts healthy children at risk of developing asthma and increases the chance that they will develop fluid in their middle ears - the most common reason young children are hospitalized for surgery:

Dozens of communities already have required that nosmoking areas be set up in some public places, and numerous businesses forbid employees to smoke inside...

EPA Administrator William Reilly and Dr. Louis Sullivan, secretary of health and human services, said they hoped the Ocsupational Safety and Health Administration would use the EPA report as an impetus for strengthening existing smoking

"We choose to do a lot of things in our lives that involve risk." Rellly said. "But I do not believe that we have the right to subject others to that risk.

Sullivan said the private sector has a "significant responsibility" to make offices, restaurants and other places where workers gather safer places in which to breathe.

OSHA aiready is trying to decide how to regulate indoor air pollution, said OSHA spokesman Doug Fuller. "We've been really waiting on that EPA report."

Other health organizations were lobbying for tough antismoking policies in the days before the EPA report was re-

The tobacco industry has denounced the EPA report, claiming the studies cited by the ageney didn't back up its essertion.

Reilly and Sullivan blasted back, saying the constant criticism from the tobacco industry led the EPA to work harder on writing a solid report.

